



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD641]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States;

#### Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Approved Monitoring Service Providers

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of approved Northeast multispecies at-sea and electronic monitoring service providers for fishing year 2024.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has approved nine companies to provide Northeast multispecies sector at-sea catch monitoring (ASM) and/or electronic catch monitoring (EM) services in fishing year 2024. Regulations implementing the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan require ASM and EM companies to meet service provider performance standards to be approved by NMFS to provide catch monitoring services to sectors. This action approves service providers that sectors may contract with for catch monitoring services for fishing year 2024.

**DATES:** Northeast multispecies at-sea and electronic monitoring service provider approvals are effective May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** The list of NMFS-approved sector monitoring service providers is available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/data/observer-providers-northeast-and-mid-atlantic-programs>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Heather Nelson, Fishery Management Specialist, (808) 725-5179, email [Heather.Nelson@noaa.gov](mailto:Heather.Nelson@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan includes a requirement for industry-funded monitoring of catch by

sector vessels. NMFS approves independent third-party service providers with which sectors may contract to provide ASM and/or EM services to their vessels. NMFS requires full applications for approval from ASM and EM companies that are not currently approved to be a service provider. Previously approved ASM and EM companies are not required to submit a full application to maintain their approval status if they continue to meet all service provider performance standards and submit required updated information annually. The required updated information to maintain approval includes an updated Emergency Action Plan, evidence of adequate insurance coverage, and, if applicable, any updates to staffing or operations. Regulations at 50 CFR 648.11(h) describe the criteria for approval of ASM and EM service provider applications. NMFS approves service providers based on: (1) Completeness and sufficiency of applications; and (2) determination of the applicant's ability to meet the performance requirements of a sector monitoring service provider. Once approved, service providers must meet specified performance requirements outlined in § 648.11(h)(5) and (6), including required coverage levels, in order to maintain eligibility. NMFS must notify service providers, in writing, if NMFS withdraws approval for any reason.

### **Approved Monitoring Service Providers**

On September 28, 2023, NMFS announced an opportunity for new monitoring companies to apply for approval to provide ASM and/or EM services in fishing year 2024, and an opportunity for currently approved providers to submit updated documentation to maintain their approval status in fishing year 2024. NMFS previously approved nine companies to provide catch monitoring services to the Northeast multispecies sectors in fishing year 2023. Five of the nine approved companies provide both ASM and EM services: A.I.S., Inc.; East West Technical Services, LLC; Fathom Research, LLC; New England Marine Monitoring; and Saltwater, Inc. The other four approved companies provide EM

services only: Archipelago Marine Research, Ltd.; Flywire Cameras; Satlink US, LLC; and Teem Fish Monitoring, Inc.

All currently approved ASM and EM companies continue to meet all service provider performance standards, submitted all required documentation, and are therefore approved service providers for fishing year 2024. We did not receive any new ASM or EM provider applications. Table 1 includes the revised list of approved monitoring service providers.

NMFS has the authority to remove a service provider from its approved status in accordance with the regulations at § 648.11(h)(7). A monitoring service provider that fails to meet the requirements, conditions, and responsibilities will be notified in writing that it is subject to removal from the list of approved monitoring service providers. Withdrawing approval of a service provider will be based on an evaluation of the service providers ability to meet the third-party catch monitoring provider standards in § 648.11(h)(5) and (6). NMFS will closely monitor the performance of approved service providers, and will withdraw approval during the current approval term if it determines performance standards are not being met.

NMFS did not solicit applications to provide dockside monitoring (DSM) services related to the maximized retention EM program. NMFS is currently evaluating whether to operate the maximized retention EM program in fishing year 2024. NMFS will continue to administer the DSM program if it is operational in fishing year 2024. In future fishing years, NMFS intends to solicit applications to be an approved DSM provider when the DSM program transitions to industry-funding.

**Table 1 -- Approved Providers for Fishing Year 2024**

Provider	Services	Address	Phone	Fax	Website
A.I.S., Inc.	ASM/EM	540 Hawthorn St Dartmouth, MA 02747	508-990-9054	508-990-9055	<a href="https://aisobservers.com/">https://aisobservers.com/</a>

Archipelago Marine Research, Ltd.	EM	525 Head St Victoria, BC V9A 5S1 Canada	250-383-4535	250-383-0103	<a href="https://www.archipelago.ca/">https://www.archipelago.ca/</a>
East West Technical Services, LLC	ASM/EM	91 Point Judith Rd Suite 26 Unit 347 Narragansett, RI 02882	860-910-4957	860-223-6005	<a href="https://www.ewts.com/">https://www.ewts.com/</a>
Fathom Resources, LLC	ASM/EM	855 Aquidneck Ave. Unit 9 Middletown, RI 02842	508-990-0997	508-858-5383	<a href="https://fathomresources.com/">https://fathomresources.com/</a>
Flywire Cameras	EM	PO BOX 55048 Lexington, KY 40511	888-315-7796	502-861-6568	<a href="https://www.flywirecameras.com/">https://www.flywirecameras.com/</a>
New England Marine Monitoring	ASM/EM	350 Commercial St Portland, ME 04101	508-269-8138	none	<a href="https://www.nemarinemonitoring.com/">https://www.nemarinemonitoring.com/</a>
Saltwater, Inc.	ASM/EM	733 N St Anchorage, AK 99501	907-276-3241	907-258-5999	<a href="https://www.saltwaterinc.com/">https://www.saltwaterinc.com/</a>
Satlink US, LLC	EM	16423 Sawgrass Drive Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971	703-447-5287	none	<a href="https://www.satlink.es/en/">https://www.satlink.es/en/</a>
Teem Fish Monitoring, Inc.	EM	309 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave Suite 363 Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3T1 Canada	778-884-2598	none	<a href="https://teem.fish/">https://teem.fish/</a>

Note: ASM/EM = At-sea and electronic monitoring; EM = Electronic monitoring only.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

**Dated:** February 7, 2024.

**Everett Wayne Baxter,**

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*National Marine Fisheries Service.*